



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Section of Environmental Analysis

July 25, 2008

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087, Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation – Control – EJ&E West Company; Issuance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Reader:

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is pleased to provide you with your copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad by Canadian National Railway and Grand Trunk Corporation (Applicants). This Draft EIS analyzes the environmental impacts that might occur if the Applicants were to acquire and operate trains over the EJ&E Railroad, an approximately 200-mile long railroad that forms an arc from the northwest to the southeast suburbs of Chicago, approximately 40 miles outside the city. The potential environmental impacts to both the human and the natural environments that could result from the proposed acquisition are compared to the environmental impacts of continuing rail operations on the EJ&E rail line and the five CN rail lines that feed into Chicago.

The Draft EIS also sets forth SEA's preliminary recommended mitigation, Applicants' voluntary mitigation measures, and encourages mutually acceptable negotiated agreements to mitigate adverse environmental impacts should the Board approve this acquisition. The Draft EIS reflects the active participation – more than 5000 comments submitted to date – of members of the public in the Chicagoland area and beyond.

SEA invites public comment on all aspects of the Draft EIS and is providing a 60-day public comment period, which begins upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's issuance of a notice of availability in the Federal Register on August 1, 2008. Comments on the Draft EIS must be postmarked by September 30, 2008. Instructions on how to submit comments, and a list of the location, dates, and times of the open house/public meetings to be held in the Chicagoland area, are attached to this letter in a separate Fact Sheet. After your review of the Draft EIS, we appreciate your comments on ways to improve our analyses, make corrections and supplement what you feel needs further work. The more specific your comments are, the better we will be able to respond to them.

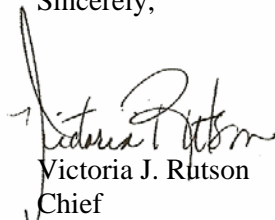
After the close of the public comment period on the Draft EIS, SEA will prepare a Final EIS in response to comments on the Draft EIS. The Board will then issue a final decision, based on the entire environmental record, including the record on the transportation merits, the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and all public and agency comments received. The Board then will decide whether to approve the proposed acquisition, deny it, or approve it with mitigating conditions, including environmental conditions.

The Draft EIS is also available for viewing and downloading via the Board's Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>, under "E-Library," then under "Decisions & Notices," beneath the date "7/25/08." For further information on the proceeding, please visit the project web site at www.stbfinancedocket35087.com or call the toll-free information line at 1-800-347-0689. You may also visit the Board's website (www.stb.dot.gov) and look for Key Cases under Environmental Matters.

SEA has distributed the Draft EIS widely for public review and comment. Approximately 5,000 copies of the Draft EIS on compact discs have been distributed to all parties on SEA's environmental distribution list, which includes interested Federally recognized tribes, key governmental agencies, elected officials, and persons expressing an interest in receiving a copy of the Draft EIS or participating in the environmental review process for this proceeding. SEA has also distributed the Draft EIS to all parties of record (official participants), as well as making additional print copies of the Draft EIS available for review in 49 libraries throughout the Study Area.

SEA appreciates the efforts of all interested parties who have participated in this environmental review to date. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria J. Rutson", is written over a horizontal line.

Victoria J. Rutson

Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis